

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 03865 192132Z

62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 079055

R 192100Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1511

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR

SUBJECT: NEW GODR OFFICIALS

1. ON SEPTEMBER 16, DR. ARTURO MUNIZ MARTE WAS NAMED SECRETARY OF LABOR REPLACING OSCAR ESTRELLA SADHALA WHO IN TURN ASSUMED MUNIS' POSITION AS SECRETARY OF STATE WITHOUT PORTFOLIO.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS ONLY THE THIRD CABINET LEVEL CHANGE MADE BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER SINCE HIS AUGUST 16 INAUGURATION. AS CABINET LEVEL POSTS ARE THE MAJOR ENTICEMENT WHICH BALAGUER CAN OFFER THE OPPOSITION, HIS DELIBERATENESS IN FILLING THESE POSITIONS PRESERVES HIS LEVERAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PARTIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS DILATORY POLICY HAS PROVOKED SKEPTICISM ABOUT ASSURANCES GIVEN IN HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH THAT HE WOULD STRIVE TO PUT A "NEW FACE" ON HIS ADMINISTRATION. IN ADDITION, THE PRESIDENT HAS FAILED TO REMOVE HIS INTIMATE AND "OLDEST COLLABORATORS" WHOM HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO "DO WITHOUT" TO GIVE THIS "NEW FACE" TO HIS GOVERNMENT. (THE EIGHT SUB-CABINET LEVEL CHANGES MADE SINCE AUGUST 16 HAVE INVOLVED A SHIFTING OF BALAGUER LOYALISTS FROM ONE GOVERNMENT JOB TO ANOTHER, NOT THEIR REMOVAL FROM THE ADMINISTRATION.)

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SANTO 03865 192132Z

3. ALTHOUGH THE MORE RADICAL PRESS AND THE OPPOSITION

PARTIES ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW SIGNS OF RESTLESSNESS IN
THE FACE OF BALAGUER'S FAILURE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT
PERSONNEL CHANGES, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OPEN CONDEMNATION
OF THE PRESIDENT THUS FAR. FURTHER DELAY, HOWEVER, COULD
LEAD TO AN INTENSIFICATION OF OPPOSITION CHARGES OF
INSINCERITY.
HURWITCH

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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